

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: GOWON VISIT

REF: LAGOS 7427

1. IN LONG SESSION SEPTEMBER 12 AMBASSADOR EDWIN OGBU CONFIRMED IYALLA'S "HOPES," "PLANS" AND "THOUGHTS" RE NYC PORTION OF GOWON'S FORTHCOMING TRIP. HE, UPON RETURNING NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 15, CHARGED WITH ARRANGING UN MEETINGS DESCRIBED BY IYALLA (LAGOS 7346), CONCLUDING AGREEMENT FOR CNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS APPEARANCE, AND "REALLY GETTING PERCY SUTTON STARTED WORKING ON RECEPTION." FMG HAD CONSIDERED REQUESTING NY MAYOR ARRANGE RECEPTION BUT CONCLUDED SUTTON IN BETTER POSITION "GET THE PEOPLE WE WANT." ACCORDING OGBU, HE INSTRUCTED "TURN OFF" AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BECAUSE "JUST NOT ENOUGH TIME." GOWON, OGBU SAYS, WILL RETURN NYC FROM WASHINGTON EVENING OCTOBER 6 AND SPEND ALL OF OCTOBER 7 IN NY, ATTENDING ST. PHILIPS PE CHURCH IN MORNING AND MOTORING TO OGBU'S TARRYTOWN RESIDENCE FOR MEETING "ENTIRE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY" LATER IN DAY.

2. OGBU'S UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL OF OCTOBER 6 RESERVED FOR WASHINGTON VISIT, BUT "I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT," THOUGH HE FEARS THAT IYALLA, WHO HAS DELAYED OGBU'S DEPARTURE FROM LAGOS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 14, WILL ALSO WANT HIM UNDERTAKE MAKING WASHINGTON ARRANGEMENTS. SAYS HE PLANS TO RESIST "BECAUSE THAT WON'T BE FAIR TO JOHN GARBA," WHO, ACCORDING

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TO OGBU, IS BEING DELIBERATELY KEPT IN DARK. OGBU EXPECTS

GARBA RETURN LAGOS ENROUTE WASHINGTON FOR A SHOWDOWN MEETING. ON OTHER HAND, HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF A MIFFED GARBA SIMPLY SLIPS OUT OF KANO AND RETURNS TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. SAYS THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE CONTACT GARBA AFTER REPEATED TRIES.

3. COMMENT: THE COMPLETELY OPEN OGBU CONFIRMED WHAT WE HAVE KNOWN: SYSTEMATIC CONFUSION IS AT WORK. SOMEHOW THE NYC PIECES WILL FINALLY FALL IN PLACE, BUT OGBU'S TASKS ARE CUT OUT FOR HIM AFTER HIS RETURN, WHICH HE FULLY ACKNOWLEDGES. IMPORTANT CONFIRMATION FROM THIS CONVERSATION IS THAT OCTOBER 6 IS FREE FOR PROJECTED WASHINGTON VISIT. OGBU SAYS HIS UN STAFF AND CONSULATE BUSY MAKING PLANS AS IF GOWON INTENDS STAY IN NEW YORK OCTOBER 4-8, BUT HE CONFIDENTLY OBSERVES, "I'LL STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT NEXT WEEK."  
REINHARDT

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